sterilization/spacing methods; funding to NGOs etc.

A DFID (UK) assisted 'Honorary Health Workers schemes' has been approved for implementation as a pilot project in 11 municipalities viz. Baharampur, Bankura, Bishnupur, Bolpur, Jangirpur, Kalna, Coochbehar, Krishnanagar, Medinipur, Purulia and Suri of West Bengal for a period of one year at a total cost of Rs. 590 lakhs. Scheme-wise budgetary allocation and release made under the National Family Welfare Programme to the State Government of West Bengal during 2003-2004 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Scheme-wise details of allocation & Release of funds to the State of West Bengal during 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Allocation made during 2003-04	Amount released during 2003-04 (till date)
1.	Maintenance of Sub-Centres, Urban FW Services, Direction & Administration, Training Institutions, Transport & Sterilisation Beds	9444.20	7071.15
2.	Compensation for Sterilisation	980.00	735.00
3.	IEC	No State-wise	116.51
4.	RCH Programme	allocation is made	2534.22
5.	National Maternity Benefit Scheme	and releases are demand driven	117.07

Duration of MBBS Course

1284. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India has recommended enhancing the duration of the MBBS course by six months;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some new components are likely to be introduced in the syllabus;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations and the decisions taken in the matter; and

(d) by when, the recommendations are likely to take effect?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Check on Drug Abuse

1285. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the reports in media about police action to curb drug abuse;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the names of the drugs which are being used commonly by doctors in connivance with druggists and chemists;

(d) the number of persons arrested so far; and

(e) whether any Drug Abuse Management has been formed by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in Government Hospitals

1286. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irregularities have been reported in various Government hospitals in the matter of purchase of machines and consumables, drugs and other imported equipments causing loss of huge revenue to the exchequers;

(b) if so, the details of the cases reported during the last one year; and